

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-69 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend Claims 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 and add new claims 68 and 69.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-36 are allowed; Claims 37-40 and 53-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Flickinger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,629,499, hereinafter Flickinger); and Claims 41-52 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter.

The Specification is amended to correct a minor informality. On page 7, line 10, “22 and 23” is changed to “3 and 4.” Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

Claims 41-52 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 41, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 51 are herein amended to be written in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 41-52 are therefore now allowable.

Applicants have added new Claims 68 and 69. New Claims 68 and 69 correspond to allowed Claims 1 and 11, but are written without means-plus-function language. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 68 and 69 are allowable for the same reasons as Claims 1 and 11.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 37–40 and 53-67 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Flickinger, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Amended Claim 37 is directed to an information recording medium stackable on an information processing apparatus having a holding part that is configured to hold a holding portion of each information recording media stacked thereon. The information recording medium includes a member having a generally paper shape and an image display surface for

displaying various information. Identification information is recorded in one of peripheral portions of the image display surface other than the holding portion, and indicating a storage location of one page of display image information prestored in a storage part. The structure of the information recording medium of Claim 37 allows a plurality of information recording media stacked on a tablet to be positively identified, so that information indicating the information recording media on which additional writing is made is related or linked with respect to information before the additional writing, without requiring the user to be aware, under general circumstances where an operation or work requires the plurality of stacked information recording media to be used as if turning the pages, such as when holding a conference, performing a document checking, performing creative activities, and the like.¹

With respect to the rejection of Claim 37, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Flickinger² fails to teach or suggest every element of Claim 37. Claim 37 recites "...identification information recorded in one of peripheral portions of the image display surface other than the holding portion, and indicating a storage location of one page of display image information prestored in a storage part." Flickinger fails to disclose or suggest this element of Claim 37.

Flickinger discloses locating the identification information such as a bar code on the holding portion of the information recording medium that is held by the holding part of information processing apparatus. Flickinger locates the identification information on the holding portion of the information recording medium so that the bar code can be read by the bar code reader located in the holding part.³ Since part of the medium printed with the bar code is held by the clip, there is a problem in that the bar code that is detected by the bar code

¹ Specification, page 11, line 18 to page 12 line 3.

² Flickinger corresponds to Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 7-200134, which is discussed in the Specification of the present application at pages 6, 7, and 10

³ Flickinger, Fig. 1 and col. 3 line 67 to col. 4 line 1.

reader provided in the holding part remains unchanged even in a case in which a plurality of media are placed on the board and one or more of the media are turned over.⁴

When there are many forms under the holding portion, Flickinger discloses incorporating a sound receiver into the board to detect switching from a first form and second form located under the first form.⁵ When using a sound receiver, Flickinger does not disclose or suggest the claimed “identification information recorded in one of peripheral portions of the image display surface” as recited in Claim 37. When using a sound receiver, no information is recorded in one of peripheral portions of the image display surface.

Flickinger also discloses placing a small printed box on the form, where different forms have the box located at different positions.⁶ The box will have to be checked before the computer knows what form is placed on the electronic board. Thus, Flickinger does not disclose or suggest “indicating a storage location of one page of display image information prestored in a storage part.”

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 37 (and its dependent Claim 38) patentably distinguish over Flickinger. Claim 39 is similar to Claim 37. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 39 (and its dependent Claim 40) patentably distinguish over Flickinger for at least the reasons given for Claim 37.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 53, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 53 recites “...a judging part configured to judge whether or not the first personal identification number read by said reading part matches a second personal identification number which is set in advance...” Flickinger does not teach or suggest this element of Claim 53.

⁴ Specification, page 10, lines 13-17, and Figs. 3 and 4.

⁵ Flickinger, col. 4, lines 23-28.

⁶ Flickinger, col. 4, lines 31-35..

On the contrary, Flickinger merely proposes comparing an identifier, namely a form number 202, with a prestored identifier.⁷ However, the form number 202 used in Flickinger merely identifies the type of information, i.e., an inventory form for GM cars and a bank check.⁸

The “personal identification number” recited in Claim 53 is used to prohibit processing of the document by a person other than the user.⁹ Thus, Flickinger does not disclose or suggest the claimed “...a judging part configured to judge whether or not the first personal identification number read by said reading part matches a second personal identification number which is set in advance...”

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 53 (and its dependent Claims 54, 55, 57, and 59) patentably distinguish over Flickinger. Claims 56, 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 are similar to Claim 53. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 56, 61, 62, 63, 64, and 65 (and there dependent Claims 58, 60, 66, and 67) patentably distinguish over Flickinger for at least the reasons given for Claim 53.

⁷ Flickinger, col. 3, lines 43-55.

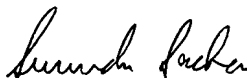
⁸ Flickinger, col. 3, lines 44-46.

⁹ Specification, col. 3, lines 43-47.

Consequently, in view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection is traversed and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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